

The Headhunter

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MAINTENANCE PLT
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SSG Jorge Paez

Special points of interest:

- Congratulations to SGT Meyers, SPC Bluett, SPC Harper, SPC Horvath, SPC Pacifici, SPC Palmer and SPC Wegner for their recent promotions on 1 OCT.
- Congratulations to SPC Aaron and Brandy Templett for the birth of their baby girl, Emma Denise Templett born on October 4th at St. Joseph Hospital in Schweinfurt.

Training for the Fight!

Commander's Corner—

It's hard to believe that a month has already come and gone. Time flies when you're having fun. The past few weeks have been jam packed with intense weapons training, which included mounted maneuver and a convoy live fire exercise. The soldiers have been training hard to fine-tune their war fighting skills, and as usual, we can never get enough. We've fired all of our weapons systems, zeroed our optics and conducted mounted desert land navigation. Our capstone event was the convoy live fire exercise where soldiers maneuvered the battle space by wheeled patrols though urban



SPC Stow and CPL Potier stay cool by taking a break in the sun.



CLOSE QUARTER MARKSMANSHIP



SPC Vaughn engages targets with his M249 SAW

CPL Grisby, PVT Sexton, PVT Woolbright and CPL Graves



terrain and on highways while maintaining vigilance for armed insurgents and IEDs. Additionally, they practiced their MEDEVAC skills and learned how to engage the populace to win hearts and minds. I hope you enjoy our second issue and know that as you read this that we all miss you and thank you for the sacrifices you are making at home so that we can focus on the fight abroad.

CPT C. Thompson
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Inside this edition:

- This month's feature platoon is Support Platoon, read about them on Page 2.
- MAINT, PSD and S3 articles are on Page 3.
- HHC Operations is on Page 4.
- The thought for the week is on Page 4.

Events, Past and Present

- 2 OCT 1950; 1st Peanuts Comic Strip First Published
- 28 OCT 1886; Statue of Liberty Dedicated
- 29 OCT 1929; Stock Market Crash Starts Great Depression
- 24 OCT; 9E Town Hall Meeting 
- 26 OCT; HHC FRG Meeting 
- 28 OCT; D Co Halloween Bash

NAME THAT STACHE

Can you guess who's mustache this is?

For answer, see page 4.



October 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 <i>National Golf Day</i>	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Columbus Day</i>	10	11 <i>Eleanor Roosevelt's B-Day</i>	12 <i>Farmer's Day</i>	13	14 <i>Eisenhower's B-Day</i>
15 <i>National Grouch Day</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <i>National Nut Day</i>	23 <i>Pele's B-Day</i>	24   <i>National Bologna Day</i>	25	26 	27 <i>Theodore Roosevelt's B-Day</i>	28
29	30 <i>John Adams's B-Day</i>					

Feature Platoon—Support Platoon



Back Row left to right: PFC Bean, SGT Burton, SFC Feiler, SPC Yarnot, PFC Jenks, SGT Giesenhausen, SPC Stow, CPL Graves, SSG Johnson, SFC Edwards, 2LT Lowell

Front Row left to right: PFC Joseph, SPC Rhoden, PFC Horvath, PFC Macke, SSG Brown, CPL Potier, SPC Bishop, SPC Matthews

Not present due to taskings: SGT Hughes, PFC Hiromitsu, PFC Hardison, SPC Quick, PFC Rash, SGT Hopkins, SGT Roush, SGT Hicks, SPC Dela Cruz, SPC Manning, SPC Verlinich, PFC Mascalco, SPC Lewis, SPC Honn, CPL Templet, PFC Vasquez



Left: PFC Jenks is strapped into a SKED litter by SPC Yarnot.

All companies need food, ammunition, fuel, and medics. This is why every company looks to Support Platoon for assistance in any mission. The 9E Support Platoon has been recognized by the Battalion XO as being one of the best he has ever seen. The reason for this is simple. They are soldiers dedicated to excellence in all aspects of support—from hazardous material paperwork to the quality food service to 9E troops. Support Platoon has conducted several training events in preparation for missions in Iraq.



In addition, they have maintained a PT program in order to maintain the stamina necessary to operate in the extreme weather conditions. The PT program consists of running, weight

lifting, road marches, and team sports. The training they have participated in focuses mainly on convoy operations, and all soldier tasks that accompany a convoy mission. Recently, the medic section conducted Combat Life Saver (CLS) recertification and certification courses. This will prepare all soldiers in the Battalion for emergencies that require quick action and skill.

In the following weeks, support platoon will continue to receive upper level medical training, HMMWV roll-over training, and convoy escort duties.

Maintenance Platoon

In September, Maintenance Platoon conducted its last annual service, changing it's focus from maintenance operations to more battle-focused training such as Counter- IED and Combat Logistical Patrols. They recently completed a three-day field exercise consisting of Close Quarters Marksmanship (CQM), Counter-IED STX lanes, and a Convoy Live Fire Exercise. During this exercise, they maneuvered through urban and desert terrain, reacting to various complex obstacles, armed insurgents and IED ambushes, and interacted with the local populace. The soldiers performed like true warriors, taking the fight to the insurgents, at times forgetting they were wheel and track mechanics. GO MAINTENANCE!!!

Congratulations to PV2 Sexton, the first Maintenance Platoon Soldier to win the 9th Engineer Battalion Hero of the Day. While the section NCOs were conducting training, PV2 Sexton took the lead. PV2 Sexton's NCO like attitude ensured that Service Section continued on with the mission. After receiving the mission; PV2 Sexton prepped the required material needed, made on the spot decisions, and showed confidence in his ability to lead soldiers. Later he took initiative and became licensed on the SEE Truck and NTV.



Above: Maintenance soldiers show their warface before riding into battle.

Right: PFC Wegner pulls security while halted on patrol.



PSD Platoon

As we approach one month in Kuwait, PSD is the same aggressive team it was when stepping off of the airplane. Training interrupts the monotony of desert life as our soldiers trained on Combat Life Saver skills and participated in a mass casualty rehearsal. We also conducted a three day platoon field training exercise including a 360 degree live fire range. With attachments from other sections of HHC, PSD led mounted patrols and trained on extremely realistic scenarios pulled directly from events in the last three to six months.

Regular physical fitness every morning ensures the soldiers don't lose their edge and evening sparring sessions train the soldiers to be smart, tough and aggressive, which are instincts critical to combat survival. The dusty air and smoke from burning oil turns the sun red every evening, now a familiar sight as we wait for our work to begin up North.



Left: PFC Hall is assisted out of the dining facility as a casualty during a mass casualty training exercise.



Right: PFC Hoyle is rigged with a moulage kit in preparation for the mass casualty exercise.

Left: SGT Wetmore demonstrates the proper technique for dispensing MRE cheese onto crackers.

S-3



While preparing to support and conduct onward movement operations the S3 shop celebrated the promotion of three of its soldiers. PFC Palmer, PFC Pacifici, and PFC Harper were promoted to the rank of SPC at a ceremony conducted on 011200OCT06. These soldiers along with SPC Ortiz, PFC Rash and PFC Hoover are the radio telephone operators for the Battalion. They are the voice of the Battalion to the companies, brigade and other units. Throughout Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Camp Buehring ranges and various troop movements, they have fine turned their skills.

Left: SPC Palmer, SPC Pacifici, and SPC Harper bask in the glory of promotion.

S3 continued on next page

S-3 continued



While at Camp Buehring, the S-3 section zeroed or test fired all weapons in the section. In addition, the section trained on Close Quarters Marksmanship, Counter IED Convoy lanes, crew served weapons ranges, and combat life-saver training. These activities allowed the section to fine tune their skills.

The answer to "Name that Stache" is....

SGT T.J. Giesenhenagen



HHC Operations and Supply Personnel.

Thought for the week!

"A pint of sweat will save a gallon of blood"

~GEN George S. Patton Jr.~

First Sergeant's Corner

As another two weeks of tough training go by, we continue to remain focused on what lies ahead. The soldiers are anxious and ready to apply the skills they have worked so hard to develop. Please keep us in your thoughts as we face uncertain dangers and know that we are well trained and ready.
FIRED UP!!!

1SG Shawn Lowenthal

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Brigade and Battalion Information

Visit the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Website at www.2bct.1id.army.mil for the latest news and information occurring within the Brigade and for messages from the Brigade Commander and Command Sergeant Major.

You can also visit the 9th Engineer Battalion Website at www.9en.2bct.1id.army.mil for latest Battalion news and information and messages from the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major.

The 9E Virtual FRG website can be reached at www.armyfrg.org for latest FRG information. You must register to use this site.

Email our HHC FRG Leader, Era Sue Lowenthal, at hhc9e_frg@yahoo.com with all your family readiness questions.

